

*March 2001*

*VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2*

### Inside This Issue

- 2** Martinez rappels
- 3** Taos Feeds Taos
- 4** 4th Bn Recruiting Drive
- 5** 1-200 carries Army
- 8** Enlisted Association
- 10** OCS in action

#### Minuteman Staff

**Capt. Dennis Santistevan**  
Detachment Commander

**Capt. George Hegedus**  
Executive Officer

**Sgt. First Class Hart Allex**  
Detachment First Sgt.

**Staff Sgt. Steve Stotts**  
Broadcast Journalist

**Sgt. Florence Newman**  
Broadcast Journalist

**Sgt. Joseph Vigil**  
Editor

**Spec. Crystal Padilla**  
Photo Journalist

**Cadet Andria Gallegos**

*On the cover: TSgt. David Springs uses an Improved Chemical Agent Monitoring (ICAM) device to monitor for airborne nerve and blister agents during an exercise. (Photo by Master Sgt. Paul Rittershausen, Vermont Air National Guard).*

## 64th Civil Support Team undergoes team training

By Staff Sgt. Jeff Crawley



FORT LEONARD WOOD, MO - Imagine going to work and finding out that your first task is to investigate an illegal drug lab or to search a van full of toxic chemicals with possible radiation contamination. These were some of the exercise scenarios thrown at the 64th Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Team (WMD-CST) as it went through training at Fort Leonard Wood, February 21 through March 3.

The 64th CST is a 22-person team comprised of New Mexico Army and Air National Guardsmen. The unit is based in Santa Fe.

The CST supports civil

authorities in the event of attacks involving chemical, biological and radiological agents; or nuclear explosives.

New Mexico and Maine were the first of 17 CST's to undergo Team Level Training at Fort Leonard Wood. "Up to this point we've focused on individual and section level training; here we have the entire team deploying as one unit," said Maj. Michael Schwartz, commander, 64th CST.

The two biggest challenges the 64th faced was familiarizing themselves with equipment they had not worked with before and to bring the entire team to work as one unit, said Schwartz. "We've worked very well together the ten days of the training...overall, I'm very pleased," he said.

The exercises followed the Army's training guidelines of crawl, walk and run, said Army Capt. David Kolarik, public affairs officer

*See 64th CST on page 15*

# New Mexico National Guardsman rappels to hero status

Story and photo by TSgt. Karen Baca

ALBUQUERQUE, NM- Where there's a mountain, skyscraper, helicopter, or high wall, you can find Sgt. Victor Martinez rappelling off of it. Martinez has been a member of the New Mexico Counterdrug Task Force for 10 years. His interest in rappelling began as a member of the UH-1H Helicopter Rappel Team. The team would rappel out of UH-1H Helicopters for Drug Demand Reduction activities. As a representative of the Counterdrug Task Force, Martinez and the other rappel team members would rappel 100 feet out of a helicopter and talk to youths about staying fit and drug free.

After completing Air Assault School in 1991, and becoming a rappel master in 1992, Martinez has rappelled 7,453 shaky students. "The youngest person I have ever rappelled was two years old and the oldest has been sixty," says Martinez. He has instructed students in such camps as Junior ROTC, Camp Courage, Civil Air Patrol, Laguna Math and Science Camp, Chimayo Math and Science Camp, and Drug Education for Youth (DEFY) with the U.S. Attorney's Office. On a professional level he instructs Law Enforcement Rappel Master classes for Bernalillo County, the Albuquerque Police Department and the New Mexico State Police. As a member of the Alpha Btry 4/200th in Raton, New Mexico, Martinez conducts training for Army National Guard Units around the state of New Mexico.

Most recently, Martinez conducted a rappel training session for 60 mid-school cadets attending the Albuquerque Police Department's Junior Police Academy. The Police Athletic League (PAL) sponsored the two (1) week sessions for students who do not have a criminal record and are recommended by their principals, counselors or a police officer. From 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., the cadets endure physical training, obstacle courses, and relay races. Excitement and anticipation were in the air as students took a long climb up an intimidating 64-foot tower. "There are



**Rappel Master, Sgt. Victor Martinez guides one of his students down a rappel tower.**

many youths who don't think they can make it, who want to quit and climb back down," says Martinez. That's where his job begins, as he coaxes, guides and convinces his students that somewhere inside of them is the strength to conquer their biggest fears. Martinez has an incredible record. Rarely will you see someone fail to go down his tower.

"I was shaking, and my heart was beating so hard, and then Sgt. Martinez told me to look in his eyes and follow his lead and I just felt calm again," explains one of Martinez's young students. As all of the young cadets successfully made it down the tower, they were bursting with pride as they excitedly shared stories of how it felt to come down the rope.

Martinez concludes the day with an exciting Aussie (rappelling head first) demonstration for the students. It is quite obvious to see how this soldier affects the lives of young boys and girls in a positive way. This is an experience that they will never forget. Sgt. Victor Martinez is no longer just a "guy in the army man uniform." To these young cadets, and to anyone who has ever gone down his tower, he walks away a hero.

# Taos Feeds Taos a success again

Story and photo by Capt. Dennis Santistevan

TAOS, NM - The holidays are about giving and helping those who are in need. And the annual Taos Feeds Taos project, sponsored by the New Mexico National Guard, has been giving generously to the Taos Community for the past 15 years. The organization was started by Mr. Jim Ulmer (deceased), Lt. Gen. Edward Baca (ret.), and Sgt. First Class Francis Cordova in 1986. Cordova is a full-time Guardsman with the 1115th Transportation Company in Taos. Since the inception; businesses, families, and individuals have been donating food, time, and money to purchase turkeys, hams, fruits, and vegetables. The food is boxed and contains approximately \$ 75.00 worth of food. The annual goal of feeding 1000 needy Taos County families during the Christmas week has always been met.

Cordova's years of experience have found the following items to be most beneficial: 5 lb. bag of white sugar, 5 lb. bag of flour, 1 box of salt, 2 lb. bag of dried pinto beans, 2 lb. bag of white rice, 1 lb. package of pasta, 1 can of marinara sauce, 1 lb. can of coffee, 1 can of condensed milk, 1 box of macaroni and cheese, 1 box of Top Ramen, 1 box of Saltine crackers, 2 lb. bag of cookies, 1 lb. bag of candy, 1 box of oatmeal, 1 can of fruit juice, 1 box of pie crust mix, 1 can of pie filling, 1 can of pumpkin, 1 can of pears, 1 can of peaches, 1 can of fruit cocktail, 1 can apple sauce, 1 can cranberry sauce, 1 can of peas, 1 can of green beans, 1 can of corn, 1 can of mixed vegetables, 1 box of stuffing mix, 12 oz. bag of posole, 1 can of yams, 1 can of beef stew, 1 bag of powdered red chile, 1 can of tuna fish, 1 box of powdered milk, and 1 can of soup.

## **Spec. Manchester-Jones helps deliver boxes of food for Taos Feeds Taos.**

Sgt. First Class Norman Martinez and Staff Sgt. John Rael of Taos have coordinated the distribution of food around the county. Sgt. First Class Rick Dominguez and Sgt. First Class Roderick Dominguez from Penasco have distributed food in the Penasco area for the past eight years. Staff Sgt. Leslie Martinez has distributed food in the Questa area for the past fourteen years and Vietnam Veterans Louis Trujillo and Mickey Pacheco, along with his wife Terry, have distributed food in the Costilla area.

Brig. Gen. Randall Horn, via helicopter, showed his support for the program and the community. Maj. Gen. Melvyn Montano (ret.) stated, "Its all about the people." Troop Command Command Sgt. Maj. John Torres, who seemed to be everywhere at once, assisted enormously.

The Taos Feeds Taos Board of Officers and Members include Roberto Gonzales, Eloy Jeantete, John Otis, Mabel Jeantete, Ernestina Cordova, Francis Cordova, Cheryl Huland, Pauline Mondragon, Rebecca Romero, Ethyl Rose, Rita Santistevan, Rey Torres, and Janet Webb. They are all looking forward to next year's Taos Feed Taos.

# Clovis Guardsmen accomplish recruiting drive mission

By Maj. Steven Garcia

Photos by Command Sgt. Maj. Ken Hirst

CLOVIS, NM - Soldiers of C Battery, 4th Battalion, 200th Air Defense Artillery were out talking up the New Mexico National Guard. They participated in a recruiting drive with Bender Automotive Dealerships on the March 9 -11 drill weekend. The event was a huge success for the National Guard as well as the community of Clovis. Not only was it great for Recruiting, but it gave the citizens of Clovis a chance to visit with National Guard Soldiers and get a demonstration of our equipment. It really gave the community the opportunity to get to know what it is the Guard in Clovis actually does.

Prior to the drill weekend, soldiers were actually involved in producing a television commercial with the local dealership. Sgt. Lorrie Goddard of 1st Battalion, who works for the local cable company, produced the cable spot.

The recruiting drive produced six quality recruiting leads.

**GI Johnny and Daryl Bender, owner of Bender Automotive Group, work in partnership during the recruiting drive weekend.**



**Above: Soldiers from C Btry, 4th Bn, 200th ADA conduct training in front of one of the Bender dealerships. Right: Sgt. Lorrie Goddard is assisting while Pvt. Micheal Carson and Pvt. Jackie Boney are being fitted for the GI Johnny suit. Sgt. First Class Walter Jones assists with the fitting.**





# NM Guard joins A-1-7 in the field

By Spec. Aaron Thacker

DONA ANA, NM - Tis the season for deployments and preparation for the challenges that may await soldiers in distant lands. Units from all over the country are hitting the field to train-up on their soldiering skills.

The servicemembers of A Battery, 1-7 Battalion Air Defense Artillery, 108th Brigade from Fort Bliss, Texas were no exception to this rule as they headed out to Dona Ana Range for a live fire exercise in January.

What made this mission unique was that 1-7 was integrating with a National Guard unit from New Mexico.

"This is a robust unit," said Lt. Col. Robert Burns, 1-7 commander, as he described the intensity of his soldiers. They really seem to have what it takes to get the job done, continued Burns.

Integrating with A-1-7 for the exercise was the first platoon from 1-200th ADA, a National Guard unit from Roswell, NM.

These are soldiers with "full time dedication and part-time pay," said Lt. Col. R.A. Pancho Maples, commander of 1-200 ADA, emphasizing his troops' enthusiasm.

With both units raring to go, it was time to execute the operation.

The mission of the live-fire exercise was to simulate a convoy escort via Avengers and troops and to breach an obstacle.

As the mission began, two Avenger teams led the convoy through the desert with a two and a half-ton truck full of troops following behind. An Avenger team in the rear made up the final tactical element of the convoy.

As the convoy rounded a bend the obstacle became apparent. Concertina wire blocked the roadway. It was an obvious ambush. Members of the escort reacted with quickness and precision.

The Avenger teams, operated by soldiers from 1-200 ADA, placed themselves strategically, so they

would be able to provide appropriate air defense. The soldiers in the "deuce and a half" --the "launcher" platoon from A-1-7 dismounted the vehicle and assumed a fighting position for the enveloping attack.

A drone entered the theater adding realism to the threat of an air attack. Also, pop-up targets revealed themselves on the ridge.

After locking in on the drone, the .50 caliber guns on the Avengers began to unload, cutting down the air threat. The ground troops then began to open fire on the enemy silhouettes. After the initial threats were eliminated, the convoy moved forward to take out the obstacle.

The mission was a success. The integrated units worked as a team of professionals and defied the enemy's course of action.

"I challenge you to tell me who is who," said Burns referring to the quality of the units working together. "They are fully integrated."

Although much of the success of this mission can be attributed to the officers' leadership, it was the NCO's who made it happen.

"A lot of NCO preparation went into setting up the range," said Spec. Dustan Woodard, a member of the dismount team. "They were the ones who received permission for us to have ammo during the dismount," he continued. "We were the first ones to use live ammo during a dismount exercise."

"All ADA soldiers should train like this," said Pvt. First Class Elton Poole, another member of the "launcher" platoon.

The primary contributor to the success of this mission was the hard work put in by everyone, as an NCO from 1-7 describes: "We have been going through several dry runs to get ready for this," said Sgt. Coy Province. This is why the integration is a success. Everyone knows his or her part, Province continued.

As for the National Guard element, the exercise gave them a chance to prove their worth. It showed them whether their life outside the Army interfered with their focus on being a soldier.

"Initially, communication was rough," said Lt. Mark Martinez, first platoon leader for the 1-200 ADA, "but the professionalism of these soldiers smoothed everything out."

"Firing the .50 caliber on the Avenger is good motivation for the younger soldiers," said Martinez. "We have to use our imaginations on training missions back home, because we don't have the same facilities."

Martinez was not alone in his opinion of working with the .50 caliber. I enjoyed the experience of shooting the .50 cal., said Pvt. Juan Maldonado, a soldier who is a student when he is not serving his country. "It was my first time firing it, and I hit the target."

The quality of this exercise was impressive for everyone involved.

"It was more realistic than a regular range," said Spec. Edward Fritts, A-1-7. "They were IMT movements, a flank team and a breach team."

"This is the one time we get to use live rounds," said Spec. Chris Ruiz, A-1-7. "We normally only use blanks during Sergeant's Time Training."

But, the impressive picture that these soldiers have painted may just be youthful optimism. Many of them have never seen this kind of training before. Are they really ready? Can they perform these tasks when it counts? Only someone of experience can answer that question.

"About 80 percent of the soldiers in Alpha Btry have never seen an exercise like this," said Capt. Timothy Broadenax, commander of A-1-7. "It makes me feel good that we can train these soldiers. We know they will be ready when we are done. More than ready."

# National Guard Day

New Mexico Legislative Session 2001

Photos by Spec. Crystal Padilla



New Mexico Army National Guard soldiers provide rockwall climbing and rappelling to attendees of the Legislature.



Counterdrug Support soldiers Staff Sgt. Reyes Marquez, Spec. Toni Barela and Staff Sgt. Tim Kennelly present the Counterdrug Support Program during National Guard Day at the Roundhouse.



Sgt. First Class Kenneth Shumpert and Sgt. Norman Martinez of the Weapons of Mass Destruction explain the mission of their unit.



Sgt. First Class Yolanda Vigil, Staff Sgt. Roxanne Garcia, Staff Sgt. Mark Vigil and Staff Sgt. Mike Vigil of the NMARNG Recruiting force discuss the day's activities after talking up the New Mexico Army National Guard.

## 717th Medical Co. Undergoes Changing of the Guard

Unit to Deploy to Kosovo by Year's End

By Staff Sgt. Steven Stotts



**“Transfer of Command: Maj. Michael Montoya, new commander of the 717th Medical Co. (Air Ambulance) grasps the unit guide-on while Col. Mark Dow, commander, 93rd Troop Command (left), and outgoing commander Maj. Leanne Schiffer (right) stand fast.**

SANTA FE, NM - The 717th Medical Co. (Air Ambulance) received a new commander in February. Maj. Michael Montoya replaced outgoing commander Maj. Leanne Schiffer during a change-of-command ceremony officiated by Col. Mark Dow, commander of the 93rd Troop Command.

Montoya takes charge of the unit at a crucial time. As reported last year in *The Minuteman*, the unit is scheduled to deploy for a 6 month peacekeeping tour with allied forces in Kosovo. Plans had called for deployment this June, however officials have since rescheduled the mission for November.

Some 30 soldiers from the unit's location in Santa Fe, and 17 members of its Nevada detachment have been targeted to deploy to Kosovo. Approximately 70% of the New Mexico detachment will remain on normal duty status in Santa Fe.

Brig. Gen. Alex Garcia, Deputy Adjutant Gen., hosted the attendance of several members of the New Mexico legislature at the ceremony who were provided an orientation on Guard operations, and a ride over Los Alamos on one of the unit's UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters.

## 515th Regiment... Training and educating tomorrow's leaders

By Officer Candidate Mark Gunn

SANTA FE, NM - The 515th Regiment of the New Mexico Army National Guard has conducted an Officer Candidate School (OCS) program since 1957 and is one of many State operated OCS programs in the United States. The OCS Company comes under the General Studies Battalion which include non-commissioned officer education system (NCOES) courses as well as several Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) producing courses for enlisted soldiers.

The first OCS class graduated in August 1958. In October 1995, the Regiment underwent some organizational changes as the New Mexico Army National Guard joined the rest of the nation and committed itself to the Total Army School System (TASS) for the Army of the Twenty-first century. The purpose of TASS is to provide a cohesive and efficient Army School System of fully accredited and integrated Active Component/Army National Guard/United States Army Reserve Schools that provide standard individual training for soldiers of the TOTAL FORCE.

OCS has a certified staff consisting of the Teach, Assess and Counsel (TAC) Staff. This staff is carefully selected, highly qualified and motivated officers and NCOs tasked with the development and evaluation of the leadership ability of each candidate. The Instructor staff is comprised of equally qualified and dedicated officers and NCOs who conduct high quality and meaningful training for the officer candidates.

## Retirees To Sponsor 32nd Enlisted Association Convention

By Art Guarriello, President

Retired enlisted members of the Enlisted Association of the New Mexico Army and Air National Guard and the Spouse Auxiliary will sponsor the 32nd Annual Enlisted Association Convention March 30-31 in Albuquerque, the place the first convention was held.

The Enlisted Association has come a long way, bringing FREE license plates to all active Guard members and working to extend that privilege to retirees for a small administration fee. New Mexico members are directly responsible for the 28 days commissary privilege available to all Guard members.

The association has successfully lobbied for PX benefits, Tuition Assistance and burial rights in National Cemeteries.

The New Mexico Association grants three scholarships to members, their spouses or dependents. There is also a scholarship available from the National Association and one from the National Auxiliary,

The auxiliary is an active part of the New Mexico Association and gives spouses a way to participate in their own organization and support Association activities.

The enjoyable annual conventions bring active and retired members of the New Mexico Army and Air National Guard together to collaborate on things that encourage enlisted soldiers to serve 20 or more years and retire.

Membership information is available by calling toll free 1-888-366-6933. Leave a phone number when asked for your numeric message. Auxiliary membership information is available at 1(505) 888-4006. Your membership is needed to successfully lobby for more benefits.

Three publications are distributed to members to relay information about benefit changes. Two of these come quarterly from the national level and one on an as needed basis. The "Bugle" is New Mexico's quarterly publication.

## Montoya assumes command of 93rd HHD

By Sgt. Florence Newman

SANTA FE, NM - Capt. Rachel Montoya assumed command of the Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 93rd Troop Command from Capt. James Roybal in a change of command ceremony conducted by Col. Mark Dow in February.

Montoya, the previous commander of the 720th Transportation Company, said that commanding a detachment of 36 high ranking soldiers is going to be a test of her abilities, but one she is looking forward to. Montoya didn't waste any time, as she began planning the unit's annual training for this summer.

Montoya, who lives in Springer, is a Prevention Coordinator for the Taos/Colfax Community Services. When she is not commanding soldiers, she is educating 6-17 year old children on drug awareness, self-esteem and at-risk related issues.

Montoya is a 13 year veteran of the National Guard who made the transition from the enlisted ranks to officer in 1996. She earned her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Criminal Justice from the University of New Mexico.

Roybal, who commanded the HHD for the past 26 months, has been reassigned to the 515th Maint. Battalion.

"The HHD is a great group of hardworking soldiers," praised Roybal. "It's hard to leave a great unit like this but it is time to go." He also noted that a command such as HHD is tougher than most because almost everyone outranks you.

Roybal was in command during the Cerro Grande Fire in Los Alamos. The HHD provided technical and administrative support and processed about 600 soldiers for a real world mission.

Roybal is a Desert Storm veteran who has deployed twice in times of conflict. He was responsible for moving armor assets from the port of Deharan to the front line of troops and also served on the graves registration crew. "The opportunity to use all my training in a real world conflict and be responsible for people's lives has been the highlight of my career," stated Roybal.

Roybal, a senior buyer at Highlands University, is currently working on his Masters in Public Administration.



# Que Pasa

## Youth Camp seeks volunteers

The Family Program is currently planning for two Youth Camps in 2001. Southern and Northern Youth Camps cadre are looking for Team leaders, counselors, junior counselors, survival instructors and cooks. If you are interested in volunteering for the great Guard experience, please give us a call. Camper and volunteer applications are available at the State Family Program Office or from Southern Camp Director Juan Perez at (915) 569-0402, Northern Camp Director Fernando Baca at (505) 474-1764 or your unit Family Readiness Group Coordinator.

## Soldiers' Bill of Rights outlined

Brig. Gen. Randall Horn has outlined Soldiers' Bill of Rights for New Mexico Guardsmen. As a member of the New Mexico Army National Guard, you are entitled to:

- Training that is challenging and worthwhile
- Timely and accurate pay
- Courteous and dignified treatment
- A career development plan
- Proper mentoring
- Timely responses to your questions, concerns, or inquiries
- Accurate information
- Leaders that are caring, quality, motivational, productive and efficient
- A specialty qualification plan if you are not already qualified
- Equal opportunity
- Well kept personnel records
- Predictability in training events and dates
- Assigned to a position commensurate to your skills, ability, and grade
- Be involved in the planning and execution of operations

## Officers Association to hold annual conference

The 53rd Annual General Conference for the New Mexico National Guard Officers Association will be held at the Hilton Hotel in Las Cruces, New Mexico on April 20-21, 2001. Rooms at the Hilton may be reserved at (505) 522-4300.

## DACOWITS holds discussions

Defense Advisor Committee on Women in the Services Committee (DACOWITS) Representative, Dr. Karen Gold, chaired discussion groups here on March 3, 2001. Dr. Gold will compile an installation report which is sent to the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Readiness and the state. A summary of that report will be made available to the troops according to Col. John Matanock. DACOWITS is currently tracking trends and compiling lists of issues that might be continuing concerns that the committee will need to look into on a regular basis. The major areas being tracked right now have to do with combat exclusion, outsourcing and privatization, over-deployment, the wear and tear on dual career couples, and the cannibalization of parts- a practice adopted due to lack of available funds.

The DACOWITS members are all volunteers who receive no monetary compensation for their work with installations. Gold says that she does this because she feels indebted to the soldiers who make the country safe for all Americans. While the organizational name appears focused on women, DACOWITS is, "just as concerned with America's sons as well as the daughters of the American people." They are anticipating changing the name of the organization to reflect their concerns with people and family members that make up the Armed Services.



Officer Candidate Gary Stewart does pullups before chow.

OCS 43-01

## *Today's look at tomorrow's leaders.*

Photos by Spec. Crystal Padilla



T.A.C. Officer Miguel Aguilar provides Officer Candidate Peter Romero constructive criticism during pushups.



Candidates Stewart, Romero and Gunn maneuver towards their objective using the low crawl.



Candidate Mark Gunn takes cover during individual movement training.

## OCS 43-01



Candidates prepare for their individual movement training at the Regional Training Institute.



Candidates conduct individual movement training.



Candidate Peter Romero during infantry tactics training.



## Guard helps bridge technology gap for Penasco Schools

Story and Photo by Sgt. First Class Hart Alex



*Guardsmen unload computers for Penasco Schools.*

PENASCO, NM - Penasco School District needed computers. They found them through Government Surplus in Denver. Getting them from Denver to Penasco was the problem. Enter Sgt. First Class Rick Dominguez of Penasco. He was attending a school board meeting in January when the problem came up. Dominguez, who works at CSMS, suggested that perhaps the Guard could provide a solution. It turned out that training missions for the semi-trucks were few and far between. After contacting a number of people, Dominguez got the ball rolling. Despite a number of delays the mission was approved.

Drivers for the two trucks were pulled from the 1115th, 804th and 720th. Lt. Col. Paul Pena (Troop Command) watched the unloading and commented that the men logged some good driving hours compared to many of their normal missions. They brought nearly 100 computers, monitors and keyboards. They were shrink-wrapped and palletized so loading and unloading was the only effort.

Arnold Lopez, Penasco's tech coordinator, was extremely pleased to have the NMARNG assist them. "Getting the computers through the surplus was paperwork but getting them to New Mexico required a team effort." An interesting extra to the whole plan was Dominguez being elected to the school board while this operation was taking place. "Good start sergeant."

## Officer Candidate School defines Application process

So you want to become an officer? The following process is outlined to help you submit your application for Officer Candidate School.

The first step is to contact your commander or platoon leader to see if they will sponsor you into the OCS Program. The OCS Recruiter will send you some additional information and put you on mailing list. Any questions can be answered at that time.

Find out your GT Score. It is part of your ASVAB test scores, which are located on your DA Form 2-1 in your 201 file at your unit. If your GT Score is below 110, contact OCS Recruiting to make arrangements to retake the test.

Check the waivers section of the Qualification Page to see if you need a waiver. If you do need a waiver contact OCS Recruiting for additional information.

The application for OCS can be obtained through a number of sources. The OCS Recruiter will send you one with the OCS information. Your unit or command should also have a copy of this document.

Follow "Block #26" on the form and gather the required documentation. Most of it will be in your 201 File at your unit.

You are responsible for the packet, especially your Official college transcripts and the Autobiography since your unit cannot get these documents for you. The OCS Recruiter can send you a sample Autobiography by fax or mail, if necessary.

Once the packet is completed it must go through your chain of command for approval.

When the application is signed by your chain of command it will be sent to the 515th Regiment.

At this point, you will attend an OCS board pending acceptance of your packet.

Every soldier applying for OCS must complete a diagnostic APFT (Army Physical Fitness Test) before entrance into the course. You must also pass a record APFT in accordance with FM 21-20 by the end of Phase 1 training.



## Sergeant's Time discusses the black beret

By Master Sgt. Jon Connor

WASHINGTON (Army News Service) - Master Sgt. Kittie Messman, The Army's noncommissioned officer who oversees uniform policy, recently presented the "Do's" and "Don'ts" about the wear and care of the black beret. She brought actual berets for soldiers to try on and learn how to correctly wear the service's upcoming standard headgear.

June 14, which is the Army's birthday, is the date when soldiers throughout the Army will begin wearing the headgear which has brought much debate since it was announced last October.

Messman's presentation included information about how the beret should be worn, its care, and debunked some myths floating around the field.

New black berets will not have liners compared to those made before them. "The Army figured if everyone was going to cut them out, don't put them in," she said.

One slide stated "Females may not pack their hair into the beret," in accordance with Army Regulation 670-1. Female soldiers will have to adjust their hair style to the beret, and not the beret to the hairstyle normally worn, Messman said.

As for the maintenance aspects of it, Messman said many of these care methods used by other beret wearers handed down over the years are not recommended by the manufacturer and can actually damage the beret because of its wool material.

For example, one of the so-called care methods discussed was soaking the beret in warm water which could actually shrink it.

Soldiers that care for their beret in any manner not authorized will not be reimbursed or reissued a new one, but instead will be replaced at the soldier's expense, Messman noted.

Soldiers will be issued their first beret in April with the Army flash sewn on. The second beret will be issued in October.

The beret is available right now for sale at military clothing stores.

No black berets will be worn at Basic Training, Officer Basic Course, Warrant Officer Basic Course, Officer Candidate School, ROTC and the United States Military Academy.

## Junior Achievement program needs volunteers

Did you know you can volunteer with Junior Achievement for two hours of pay per pay period?

We have the perfect opportunity to get involved in the community and make a difference in a child's life. All that is required is one hour per week for five weeks.

Junior Achievement's purpose is to educate and inspire young people to value free enterprise, business and economics to improve the quality of their lives.

Junior Achievement needs volunteers to go into schools and carry a message that can change a student's life forever. We can make an impact that can last a lifetime. All volunteers need is enthusiasm and a willingness to participate. Junior Achievement provides the training, students and curriculum.

Have some fun and make a difference while selling the New Mexico National Guard. If you work in Albuquerque, Rio Rancho, Los Lunas or Bernalillo, call today. There are still classes available. Act now-time is running out to participate in this school year.

Next year, Junior Achievement promises to open up high schools which can impact recruitable teens.

For more information call 271-7161 or e-mail Maj. Kimberly Lalley at [kimberly.lalley@nm.ngb.army.mil](mailto:kimberly.lalley@nm.ngb.army.mil)

## NMARNG submits Long Range Construction Plan

By Spec. Thomas Romero

SANTA FE, NM - The Long Range Construction Plan for New Mexico was submitted to National Guard Bureau (NGB) on February 9th, 2001. This plan is incorporated into the Defense Budget submitted by President George W. Bush to Congress annually. Lt. Col. Tom Gurule, Construction and Facilities Management Officer for the state said, "The Long Range Construction Plan is an annual requirement to NGB. In it, we provide the Adjutant General's (TAG's) prioritized requirements for construction. This changes annually, due to the TAG's priorities and force restructuring of units. Our total LRCP submitted this year was in excess of 60 million dollars."

The TAG's top three priorities for construction are a new Army Aviation Support Facility (AASF) in Santa Fe, a Ready Building in Rio Rancho for the newly activated Weapons of Mass Destruction unit, and a new Ready Building for Truth or Consequences. Construction costs for these facilities are over 15 million dollars for the 130,000 square foot AASF in Santa Fe; over one million dollars for the 11,000 square foot Ready Building in Rio Rancho; and over three million dollars for the 29,000 square foot Ready Building in Truth or Consequences.

Design start of the AASF is scheduled for August of this year. Design of the Ready Building for Rio Rancho will be starting in May of this year. Design start for the Ready Building in Truth or Consequences is anticipated for May, 2002. Once design is completed, the project is put out to bid.

Once a contractor is selected and awarded, construction usually takes nine months. The whole process from design to occupancy generally lasts 18 to 22 months.

## OCS graduate fulfills life long dream of becoming an Army officer

By Cadet Andria Gallegos

Todd Kontny, a member of the United States Army, graduated with Officer Candidate School (OCS) class 41-99 in August 1999. Due to slight vision imperfections, Kontny was unable to attain his commission along with his fellow classmates. Kontny, however, never lost his dream of being an Army officer, and therefore opted to undergo Lasik Surgery in March 2000 to correct his vision.

Kontny trusted New Mexico Surgeon General, Col. Rodgers, with this delicate procedure. After the surgery, Kontny waited anxiously for almost a year, in order for the Army Surgeon General to approve the Lasik Surgery and his waivers. Kontny sent in his third waiver in late December 2000, which was finally approved in January 2001. This approval meant that Kontny would finally be able to gain his commission into the United States Army.

There was a commissioning ceremony held for Todd Kontny on January 28, 2001, which took place at the Kirtland Air Force Base Officers club. Brig. Gen. Alex Garcia was the guest speaker. 2nd Lt. Thomas Benard was the Master of Ceremonies.

Olichwier Kontny, Todd's father, and other family and friends attended a small reception following the ceremony.

## 64th CST, from page 1

for the CST training. At the beginning of the training the exercises are executed in the crawl phase--a slow pace that can be paused at any time for training emphasis. Next, exercises are performed in the walk phase that is similar to crawl, however, at a little faster pace. In the last days of training, the exercises are in the run phase. This is at full speed without stops for snafus.

The CST mission is to assist a WMD event, advise civilian responders regarding appropriate actions, and to facilitate requests for assistance of state and federal assets.

In the exercise scenarios as well as the real world, when the CST arrives on scene they link up with the civilian Incident Commander, usually a firefighter chief or police chief. "We tell them of our capabilities and limitations and ask what's required of us," said Schwartz.

Then the CST establishes a safe zone to set up their equipment. This includes a command post, communications suite, medical monitoring area for team members, Mobile Analytical Laboratory System (MALS), and decontamination line.

CST survey team members wearing encapsulating suits, self-contained breathing apparatus and carrying monitoring devices will enter the exclusionary area, also known as the hot zone, to establish boundaries around the target area.

An entry team then goes in the target area, does a site layout, gets a description of what's there and how much, and obtains a couple of samples if possible. Next a sampling team enters the target area to get



**Lt. Markus Bader, Medical Officer, checks Spec. Louie Cordova's vital signs prior to entering the hot zone. Photo by Master Sgt. Paul Rittershausen.**

many samples of the WMD agent. Once samples are obtained they are taken to the MALS. The MALS has a HAPSITE chemical analyzer that can detect 150,000 chemical agents.

If things go bad at the incident site, for example, there is a major wind shift or team members become contaminated, the CST will extract and meet at a GO TO HELL rally point. This is a pre-determined site about half a mile from the incident site. Here the CST will regroup and decide what to do next, said Schwartz.

The CST's communication center is the Unified Command Suite (UCS). This is a support van which is capable of virtually every voice and data link, both secure and non-secure. The 64th will be getting their own UCS later this year.

"The hands-on training was the most beneficial part of the exercises," said Master Sgt. Matthew Archuleta, survey team member. He found the surprise twists to the exercises to be the most taxing. Just when you thought you had a situation under control the exercise officials would introduce an unexpected event into the exercise, he said.

At the end of each day's exercise the unit would go through an After Action Report. Here the CSTs could identify areas where they excelled or where they needed to improve and could focus their future training, said Jay Norris, exercise controller.

"The Team Level Training is a great opportunity for the CSTs to get a feel for what their mission is and how important it is," said Kolarik. The CST training will continue through May at Fort Leonard Wood with WMD-CSTs from throughout the United States.



**Spec. Louie Cordova puts on a Level A suit with help from a team member before entering a hot zone. Photo by Master Sgt. Paul Rittershausen.**